

REMARKS

I. Amendments and Status of Claims

By this amendment, the specification and claims are amended. Applicants submit a marked-up copy of the originally filed specification and a clean copy of a substitute specification. With these amendments, no new matter has been added.

Pages 9 and 42 of the originally filed specification are amended to include the generic drug names for trademarked brand-name drugs already identified in the specification as other agents for the treatment of a HCV infection. Likewise, in claims 11 and 24, non-generic names of other anti-viral agents to be used in combination with the claimed compositions are deleted. Pages 3, 4, and 42 of the originally filed specification are amended to add a trademark symbol after trademarked brand-name drugs.

Pages 12, 14, and 20 of the originally filed specification are amended to clearly define W as shown in the structures of compounds of the formula (I) and formulas 1 (A-D), 2 (A-D), 3 (A-B), 4 (A-B), 5 (A-B), 6 (A-B), 7 (A-C), and 8 (A). Support for these amendments can be found, for example, on page 20, lines 8-11, and pages 23-27 (structures of particular embodiments) of the originally filed specification, the schemes and examples as originally filed, and the claims as originally filed. Specific support for the definition of W encompassing CH₂ can be found, for example, on page 27 (structure of compound 1 (AF)), pages 59-60 (Scheme 9), pages 91-92 (Example 46), and claims 9 and 21 as originally filed. Claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 18, and 19 are similarly amended to clearly define W.

The structures on pages 13, 22, 23, 24, and 50 of the originally filed specification and in original claims 6 and 18 are amended to consistently identify the R⁴, R^{4'}, R⁵, and R^{5'} substituents with superscripts. The identification of compounds of the formula, 1 (A-H), 2 (A-H), 3 (A-H), 4 (A-H), 5 (A-H), 6 (A-H), 7 (A-F), and 8 (A-D), are amended to ensure that each structure has a single, unique identifier and that the same lettering is used to structurally identify substituents in each formula. On page 22 of the originally filed specification, the structures of the compounds of the formula, 3 (A-B), 4 (C-D), 5 (A-B), 6 (A-B), and 8 (H) are amended to substitute the structures of the compounds of the formula, 3 (A-B), 4 (A-B), 5 (A-B), 6 (A-B), and 8 (A), as listed on page 13 of the originally filed specification, in order to (1) avoid duplicating the same structures of additional preferred embodiments listed on the pages 23 and 24 of the originally filed specification and (2) to ensure that the identifiers 3 (A-B), 4 (C-D), 5(A-B), 6 (A-B), and 8 (A) are associated with a unique structure. The corresponding definitions of the substituents on pages 13, 14, 19, 22, 24, and 25 of the originally filed specification are amended to clearly define all of the substituents that are shown in the structural drawings. Structure 5 (C) on page 23 of the originally filed specification is amended to substitute O for W, correcting a typographical error. Page 49 of the originally filed specification is amended to correctly identify the amended structures that follow on page 50 and to correct two typographical errors.

The structures of 1(P), 1(W), 1(X), 1(AB), and 1(AE) on pages 26 and 27 of the originally filed specification are amended because atoms were inadvertently cut-off in the original table. The atom added in this amendment is double underlined in the

structure. Support for this amendment may be found in claims 9 and 21 as originally filed.

Structures of the compounds 66, 67, and 68 in Scheme 9 on page 60 of the originally filed specification are amended to insert nitrogen at position 8 of the xanthine base. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the remaining compounds of Scheme 9 and on page 59 of the originally filed specification, which describes the formation of 8-azaadenine derivative 67.

Examples 1-87 and 95-96 are amended to read in the past tense since Applicants had performed those Examples at the time the application was filed. Examples 88-94 are amended to read in the present tense since those Examples are prophetic. All of the Examples are also amended to correct missing punctuation, misspellings, and other typographical errors. In Examples containing nucleoside derivatives, primes are added to compound names to denote substitution on the sugar-derived ring. Pages 52, 64, and 65 of the originally filed specification are similarly amended to add primes to denote substituents on the sugar-derived ring. Furthermore, Examples 18, 19, 21, 28, 29, 32, 33, 41, 61, and 62 and pages 54 and 64 of the originally filed specification are amended to substitute "cyclo" for "anhydro" in order to more consistently name the structures associated with those Examples.

Pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 20, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 (Scheme 12), 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, and 73 of the originally filed specification and claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 18, and 19 are amended to correct missing or extra punctuation, missing conjunctions, capitalization errors, misspellings, and other typographical errors.

The paragraph on page 114 of the originally filed specification beginning at line 22 is deleted as it is a duplicate paragraph.

In claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 18, and 19, the species "-CN" is deleted since the claimed term "pseudohalogen" is defined in the specification to include cyanides. In addition, pages 11, 12, 19, 20, and 21 of the originally filed specification and claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 18, and 19 are amended to delete the dash before some species so that substituents are consistently named.

In claims 8, 9, 20, and 21, the word "general" is deleted since those claims recite compounds having specific structures. The phrase "optionally with a pharmaceutically accepted carrier" is added to claims 13, 18, 19, 20, and 21. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 46, lines 5-26, of the originally filed specification.

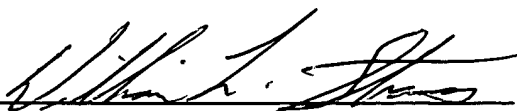
Claims 1-24 are pending in this application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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